



Command Religious Program

E-Newsletter

December 2006



Contact Information

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Staff

CDR Michael P. Zuffoletto, CHC, USN
Command/Roman Catholic Chaplain

LCDR Darrell Wesley, CHC, USNR
Protestant Chaplain

RP1 Lucy King, USN
LPO

RP3 Leighton Brown, USN

RP3 Ladislav Soucik, USN

Chapel Services

Roman Catholic

St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel
Bldg. 300

Sunday Mass: 1000

Weekday Mass: 1205 [Tues-Fri]

Religious Education: 0845-0945, Sundays

Reconciliation: 0900-0930 Sunday
also, upon request.

Baptism and Marriage - please contact the chaplain

Protestant

Christ the King Chapel
1st floor – Herrmann Hall

Sunday: 1000

Children's Church 1015, Sunday

Baptism and Marriage – please contact the chaplain

HOLY DAYS - December 2006

3,10,17,24 - *Advent - Sundays of...* - Christian

6 - *St. Nicholas Day* - Christian celebration of the birth of Saint Nicolas, patron saint of children. Many churches named for this saint who is also the Dutch version of Santa Claus

8 - *Bodhi Day* (Rohatsu) - Buddhism celebration of the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

Immaculate Conception of Mary - Catholic Christian day of celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life. A day of obligation and required church attendance

12 - Feast day - *Our Lady of Guadalupe* - Catholic Christian

16-23 - *Hanukkah* - Jewish Festival of Lights. It commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight candle Menorah is lighted
16-25 - *Posadas Navidenas* - Hispanic Christian Christian feast of The Lodgings commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

21 - *St. Thomas Day* - Christian remembrance of the Apostle of Jesus who traveled east toward India and is now the Patron Saint of India and Pakistan.

22 - *Yule* - Wicca/Neo Pagan northern hemisphere. A Norse pagan celebration of the winter-born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun. A present day Wicca event.

Litha - Wicca Neo-Pagan southern hemisphere celebration of the sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life.

24 - *Christmas Eve* - Christian

25 - *Christmas* - Christian

Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian

26 - *Zarathosht Diso* (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra)
Zoroastrian

St Stephen's Day - Christian remembrance of St Stephen, the first Christian martyr

28 - *Holy Innocents* - Christian day of solemn memory of male children killed by King Herod in the attempt to destroy Jesus.

29 - *Hajj begins* - Islam pilgrimage rites at Mecca on 7-12th days of month of Dhu al-Hajja. Concludes with Eid ul Adha when those not traveling to Mecca take part.

Hanuman Jayanti - Hindu celebration of Hanuman who was an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.

30 - *Waqf al Arafah* (Hajj Day) - Islam observance day during Hajj when pilgrims pray for forgiveness and mercy

31 - *Feast of the Holy Family* - Catholic Christian

Eid al Adha - Islamic Feast of Sacrifice. The most important feast of Islam. It concludes the Hajj and is a three-day festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah.

- Both Catholic and Protestant Religious Education classes for children continue on Sunday mornings aboard NPS. Please contact the Chaplains' Office for more information on time and locations.
- The La Mesa Women's Bible Study meets every at the La Mesa Community Center. They are always welcoming of new individuals. For more information, contact the Chaplain Office – 656-2241
- The Officer's Christian Fellowship meets on Thursdays at 1830 (6:30 PM) at the La Mesa Community Center. Feel free to stop by for time for prayer, fellowship, small group study and light refreshments.

Chapel Services Advent – Christmas Seasons

Protestant – Christ the King Chapel, Herrmann Hall

Sunday, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Dec. – 1000 – General Protestant Services

Sunday, 24 Dec. - 1800 - Christmas Eve Service

No Christmas Day Services

Roman Catholic – St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, Bldg. 300

Sunday, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Dec. – 1000 – Sunday Mass

Wednesday, 6 Dec. – 1800 - Advent Penance Service

Friday, 8 Dec. – 1205 & 1730 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) Masses

Sunday, 24 Dec. – 1730 – Christmas Eve Mass (Family celebration)

Monday, 25 Dec. – 1000 – Christmas Day Mass

MySpace.com

Back in the day, a period known as PC (pre-computer), most of us made friends the old-fashioned way: by moving in next door or sharing common interests on the playground or in the classroom. It wasn't called "social networking" back then — just "making friends."

Computers have changed the world since then, however, and now making friends simply requires some bandwidth and a few mouse clicks. Your average teen now has access to a worldwide network of "friends," acquaintances and information that can impact their lives — for better or worse.

The growing popularity of Web sites like MySpace.com is a signpost for this relational revolution. Founded in 2003, MySpace is a site where anyone can post information, pictures, preferences and musings by and about themselves. While it's designed for people 16 and older, increasing numbers of preteens have been logging on, declaring (or manufacturing) their identities for the world to see.

On the surface, it seems kind of innocuous. Users can arrange themselves into groups by interest, musical preferences, hobbies, schools and the like. The interactions take place in ways that postmodern kids love and PC parents mistrust: blogs, instant messaging, music downloads and chat rooms. In a sense, MySpace has created a virtual community where everyone can participate.

Still, it defies definition. MySpace is more than a blog; “it’s a community, a music source, a rankings site — many things,” notes Amanda Lenhart, a researcher with the Pew Internet & American Life Project, which studies teen use of the Internet. “I don’t know that we have any data that fairly captures what MySpace is.”

And therein lies the problem. Schools and parents have slowly been catching on to the fact that kids are wild about this brand of social networking and are concerned about the implications. “It didn’t take more than two minutes to find really inappropriate stuff I don’t want my 14-year-old daughter reading and seeing,” says Jeff Allen, president of the Northwest Council for Computer Education. “I’d venture to say that the vast majority of parents of teens who subscribe to MySpace have absolutely no clue what’s going on there.” Kids who naively post their personal information on the site are often oblivious to the obvious security concerns. The wild popularity of the site has led some schools to ban MySpace from classroom computers out of concern for safety and as a way of keeping kids focused on schoolwork.

The basic appeal for teens and preteens (and the problem for parents and officials) is that you can never know who a person really is on a site like MySpace. Everyone’s identity is self-generated, which encourages embellishment at the least and outright falsehood at the most. MySpace taps into one of the key tasks of childhood, adolescence and young adulthood, which is discovering one’s identity. Laura Kastner, a Seattle-based adolescent psychologist, says that the popularity of MySpace among young teens “makes perfect sense developmentally because of their burgeoning identity. They can try out different identities and make them up along the way.” “It’s like going to the mall times a hundred.”

Like, totally.

But while most adolescents and preteens are attempting to craft a popular identity that will appeal to as many real and virtual friends as possible, perhaps we should be reminding them that their real identities, their authentic selves, and our authentic selves as adults, are not something we create. Instead, we find our true value and purpose in a vital relationship with God.

What we’re talking about here is not our need for self-invention or reinvention, it’s about self-discovery. Unfortunately our culture tends to teach people to invent or reinvent themselves rather than to discover themselves. It’s when we move from MySpace to GodSpace that we discover who we really are and who we are destined to become.